

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying a subject having abnormal thought patterns
5 such as those commonly but not exclusively found in patients with schizophrenia,
the method comprising detecting and measuring thought disorder by:

a) providing the subject with a picture or other stimulus for which salient
items have already been identified;

b) causing the subject to verbally describe what he or she observes;

10 c) transcribing or recording subject's verbal observation; and

d) determining the number and type of differences in vocabulary between
the subject's description and a set of words that can denote the previously identified
salient items to develop a score of completeness of the subject's description of the
picture or stimulus.

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2. A method for detecting and measuring the severity of thought
disorder, the method comprising detecting and measuring thought disorder by:

a) providing the subject with a picture or other stimulus for which salient
items have already been identified;

20 b) causing the subject to verbally describe what he or she observes;

c) transcribing or recording subject's verbal observation; and

d) determining the number and type of differences in vocabulary between
the subject's description and a set of words that can denote the previously identified
salient items to develop a score of completeness of the subject's description of the
25 picture or stimulus.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein the text length, vocabulary size,
and/or syntactic complexity in the subject's observations are used as components of
the score.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein the stimulus uses an image of any
type (drawing, photograph, digital image, projected image, hologram, etc.), set of

still pictures, one or more motion pictures, sculptures, dramatic presentations, or three-dimensional objects.

5 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the subject's observations are captured using computerized speech recognition rather than manual transcription.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein the text length, vocabulary size, and/or syntactic complexity in the subject's observations are used as components of the score.

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7. The method of claim 2 wherein the stimulus uses an image of any type (drawing, photograph, digital image, projected image, hologram, etc.), set of still pictures, one or more motion pictures, sculptures, dramatic presentations, or three-dimensional objects.

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8. The method of claim 2 wherein the subject's observations are captured using computerized speech recognition rather than manual transcription.